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## Book Reviews.

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**Isaiah: A Study of Chapters I-XII.** By H. G. MITCHELL, Professor in Boston University. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co. Pp. 263. \$2.

Professor Mitchell's *Amos: An Essay in Exegesis* (Boston, 1893) awakens our interest in the announcement of another work from his pen. Nearly a half-century has passed since an American scholar has tried his hand on a commentary on the towering prophet. In this work our author does not attempt to cover more than twelve chapters. The preface states that the book has grown out of lectures delivered to classes in the school of theology. They are here expanded and arrayed "in a way to make them useful, not only to candidates for the ministry, but to other even less advanced students of the Bible." The plan of most commentaries is not adopted, but rather the one in which the exegesis is presented in the form of continuous discussion. The author has consulted all of the leading, and some of the minor "authorities" in the preparation of his book, as in the "books and authors cited" we find thirty-nine titles. The "Introductory Studies" embrace brief discussions of (1) Isaiah the Prophet, (2) The Times of Isaiah, (3) The Prophecies of Isaiah. Those chapters are all too brief to present vivid pictures, especially of the first two points. The second, I think, would rather confuse than help the reader, for which it is prepared. In the section on "Prophecies" the author discusses Isaiah, chaps. 1-39. These are made up of three books, terminating respectively with chaps. 11:10-12:6; 24-27; and 34-35, chaps. 36-39 being merely an historical appendix. These books are arranged not according to the original plan, nor are they the original documents, but they are based on an earlier collection of documents. The whole discussion is too brief to satisfy the reader. One naturally looks for the proof of such statements as the following (on p. 49): "The apocryphal tone of chaps. 24-27, and the reference to the West in 24:14, indicate that it was written when the overthrow of the Persian empire was imminent;" "the psalm of Hezekiah is post-exilic."

The translation of chaps. 1-12 covers twenty pages. The genuine passages are indicated by common type, and the *ungenuine* by *italics*. In *italics* we find, of larger passages, chaps. 2:1-5; 3:18-22; 4:5, 6;

5:15, 16, 30; 9:14-15; 10:10-12, 16-27, 33-34; 11:10-12:6. The "Comments" cover about 175 pages. In this rather continuous discussion the author aims to reach the popular reader, and wisely relegates to footnotes questions philological and archaeological, as well as some points where there is a sharp conflict of views. It is quite sufficient to say that we are rarely in doubt as to the author's position. The frequency of quotation from Delitzsch, Cheyne, Duhm, Orelli, Dillmann, and G. A., Smith, shows that the author has industriously and, as a rule, wisely, made use of the means at hand to produce a work both up-to-date and popular. Caution is apparent on almost every page, but we question the wisdom of presenting as yet so many of the unproved positions of Duhm too often with assent. Again, in his recommendation of works on Isaiah for his readers he makes special mention of Cheyne's *Introduction*, a book designed not for the popular reader at all, but for the specialist only. Aside from his sympathetic strains for the most advanced hypothesis on Isaiah, Professor Mitchell has done a useful piece of work. With its full indices it will be of value to every popular student of the prophet Isaiah. The book is printed in large type on thick, too thick, paper.

PRICE.

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**The Holy Land: Its Geography and History.** By TOWNSEND MAC-COUN. New York: Townsend MacCoun. Two vols. \$2.00.

Most students of history are acquainted with the author's *Historical Geography of the United States*, as well as his *Historical Charts*, and it will be unnecessary to inform them that the work has been done not only well, but from a practical point of view, with an eye to study and teaching.

In Volume I there are fifty maps faced with brief descriptions in which all the physical features of the country are very carefully presented in their relations to biblical history.

In the second volume an even larger number of maps and charts are arranged facing a descriptive text, showing along with the physical characteristics of the country, its political divisions from the earliest until modern times. In addition, there are a number of charts of Jerusalem, maps of the journeys of Paul, and several half-tone reproductions (the least effective and valuable portions of the book) of views of scriptural places. In addition, each volume has chronological charts and indices of all sorts.

As the volumes are of a convenient size, and on the whole seem to be